



The Steeple

A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois



NOVEMBER 2016

I encourage you to read 2 Corinthians 9 where Paul talks about the blessings we receive from Jesus Christ. Blessings which we are expected to share with others. He ends that chapter by saying: **“THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT.”** Paul is talking about the gift of the grace—the love, the forgiveness, the blessing—that is ours through Jesus Christ—but he could also be describing the gift of the baby Jesus. Advent when we begin our countdown to the birth of the baby begins on November 27th.

Let me take a moment to explain that as Paul traveled, he collected a special offering for the widows and orphans in the church at Jerusalem. Refusing to renounce their beliefs, some of the men had been killed. Others were persecuted and imprisoned; leaving their families destitute.

The Corinthian Christians had responded generously to these needs in the Jerusalem Church. Paul says, “Thank You,” and promises that the Jerusalem Christians will pray for the church at Corinth.

Paul goes on to observe that the Corinthians’ generosity does not flow from their own goodness. They are responding to the abundant and overflowing grace of God within their lives. Along with James, Paul believes that ultimately *God is the giver of every good gift. All we do is pass on to others a portion of what God has given to us.*

It is at this point in his letter that Paul exclaims: **“THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT.”** While all of God’s good gifts defy description, this is especially true of the baby Jesus. *For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given.*

One dictionary defines **“indescribable”** as referring to **“a thing of untellable splendor.”** Although I try every Sunday, I fail to adequately convey the splendor of the depth of God’s love for us, the splendor of the forgiveness of our sins, the splendor of the eternal life offered to us through this tiny baby.

Jesus is God’s indescribable gift. Words cannot capture the value of this gift. This is why I cherish the traditions of Christmas that remind us of the wonder of God’s gift of His own Son!

There is a Christmas tradition that we all practice, but rarely speak about: **“re-gifting.”** When Meg was three yrs. old, her expression on Christmas morning immediately revealed whether or not she liked the gift she had just opened. We had to teach her to receive all gifts graciously. Later, she could do what we often do with gifts that don’t happen to fit in with our style or taste—re-gift it.

Through your commitment to support our ministry on November 5th or 6th, you enable us to re-gift the baby throughout the year. *This indescribable gift that God has given—His own Son—is meant to be re-gifted. We are charged to share the baby with others. Here is the mystery of faith, the more we share God’s indescribable gift, the more we have for ourselves. The more we give away, the more brightly and warmly His love burns in our hearts.*

Jesus is the greatest gift of all because one size fits all. He is the gift that everyone needs for only He is the Savior of all generations. Pastor Daryl

Information for the upcoming holidays...

Christmas Eve Services: 5 p.m. Family Service
7 p.m. Traditional Service

Christmas Day, Sun., Dec. 25: One worship service at 8:15 a.m.

New Year’s Day, Sun., Jan. 1: One worship service at 10:00 a.m.





OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- **Thank you to the people of St. Paul!** Because of you we received two certificates at our Charge Conference: The **first** celebrated our payment of our conference apportionments 100% during 2015; and the **second** celebrated that we not only met but **exceeded** our goal of \$1,600 to the Bishop Jonathon and Mrs. Beverly Keaton Endowment Fund for Africa University. This gift endows a scholarship for 8 students at this great United Methodist University in Zimbabwe. Your generosity made the difference in achieving both these goals! Great job!
- Congratulations to **Caroline Campbell** who was named Queen at the East Alton/Wood River High School Harvest Festival. Caroline is the daughter of Steve & Sarah Campbell, and granddaughter of Betty Campbell-Davis and Elinor Blacklock.
- Thank you to the 14 volunteers who helped with the **Fall Church Work Day!** The completed projects included: outdoor yard work, dusting various areas, checking for squirrel entry, cleaning all the white tables, cleaning bugs from the lights, putting the winter cover on kitchen exhaust, washing windows in Fellowship Hall, emptying the recycling tubs, changing lights outside entry areas, hauling out trash, replacing lights in the craft room and other areas, and cleaning hand rails on all 3 floors. A job well done!
- Thank you to those who made the **Mission Possible, One Worship Service** so successful. It was awesome to be able to share the immense amount of work that has been accomplished through a virtual tour of our facilities. We have now reconsecrated the building and the pulpit for the purpose of doing the Lord's work. And the refreshments afterwards were fun and delicious. What a wonderful celebration! If you had to miss this, copies of the information handouts can be found in the narthex and on the white table in the Education wing hallway.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with **Trunk Or Treat in any way at all!** Our best guesstimate is that 600 (or more) children and parents attended. We had a great time! It was a fun way to reach out to our community.
- **Kathleen Marie Murbarger & Jason Samuel Roberts** were wed on Oct. 15. Congratulations! We pray that Christ will always be at the center of your home.
- "My son, **Charles McKnelly**, director of a drug center in Hong Kong, Glorious Praise Fellowship, will be presented with the Hong Kong Compassion Award which will provide funds necessary to build another drug rehab center in a city of 10,000,000 in China where the need is great! Charles has been taking converted drug addicts to churches there for a long time to give them experience in witnessing and preaching the gospel. It will be presented in a ceremony on TVB television on December 6th." —**Information from Londa Weller, his proud mom**
- Our prayers and deepest sympathy goes to those who have lost loved ones recently. To the family of **Rev. Bob Shook**; family of **Joe Martin**, husband of Alicia (Herndon) Martin; family of **Joyce Sabo**, mother-in-law of former Parish Nurse, Teri Sabo; family of **Dorothy "Dotty" Parton**, mother of Susan Parton Stanard and lifetime friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; family & friends of **Police Officer Blake Snyder**; and family of **Gary Love**, brother/brother-in-law of Kay & Don Gwaltney. May you sense God's comfort in the days ahead.
- **THANK YOU:** to everyone who helped with **Trunk Or Treat** on October 23rd. That includes those who donated candy, spread the word about the event or hung up a flyer, came to the event and offered their trunks with candy, grilled 240 hot dogs, served food in the pavilion, stuffed paper bags with candy and a flyer of upcoming St. Paul UMC events, and directed traffic in the church parking lot. All of your assistance was greatly appreciated!
Lindsey Rader and Ryan Tite
- **THANK YOU:** to everyone for the visits, cards, and prayers due to my recent surgery. I am doing very well these days! God Bless you all! *John Hendricks*
- **THANK YOU:** Debra, Meg, and I wish to thank the Staff-Parish Relations for the gift cards to Bella Milano & High Flyers on behalf of the whole congregation. Thanks to those people who sent cards during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your prayers and support mean everything to us. We feel privileged to serve St. Paul. *Pastor Daryl*



There is a "Thanksgiving Offering" envelope in with your envelopes. As you start planning to give a "thanksgiving offering," you may choose to designate it for a missionary, a mission project, or a local church special fund like the Capital Campaign. You may also leave it "undesignated."



The **undesignated monies** will be divided this way: **the first \$200 goes to the Preachers' Aid Society & Benefit Fund (PASBF) and the remainder to our Helping Hands fund.** Since the Civil War era, the PASBF has made it their mission to support retired clergy and their families. Over the years, the way in which we assist retirees may have changed, but we have never wavered from the original purpose: Serving those who have served us. The **Helping Hands** is a benevolent fund that we use to assist folks who need help with utilities, rent, & gas.

We thank you in advance for your generous response to God's great goodness.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd
7:00 P.M.**

**St. John's United Church of Christ
228 N. 6th St., Wood River**

Rev. Mike Southcombe, host pastor

Special Speaker

Special Music

Offering taken

Sponsored by the Wood River
Township Ministerial
Alliance

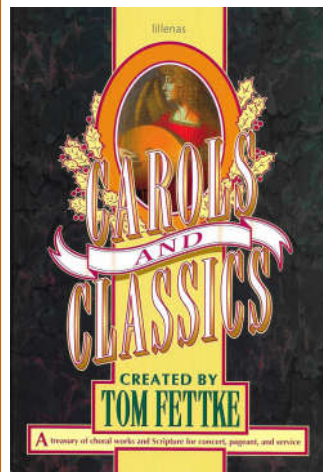


VBS 2017 - HELP!

Okay, it seems a little early to talk about VBS 2017, but we need everyone to watch for **FALL CLEARANCE SALES** as our theme for VBS 2017 is "**SUPER HEROES.**" Since finding costumes and other theme-related items in June may be a bit more challenging, please check out the **sales after Halloween** and feel free to donate any cheap Super Hero type costume items, capes, masks, small prize type super hero toys, stickers, etc. No item is too small and anything you can do now is greatly appreciated!

Thank you so very much!

JAMIE GWALTNEY



Worship Choir Prepares For Cantata!

"CAROLS AND CLASSICS"

is a Treasury of Choral Works and Scripture. A rich treasury of 27 traditional carols and well-loved Christmas classics in powerful and unique

combinations by Tom Fettke. Selected scriptures are included for the retelling of the Christmas story.

Practice is on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft! There is still time to join us if you want to sing in the cantata this year! Just come to practice!

**The Cantata will be presented on Sunday,
Dec. 18th at the 10:30 a.m. service.**



Saturdays at St. Paul in NOVEMBER 5:00 P.M. Service



Join us on SATURDAYS at 5 p.m. for Awakening - St. Paul's contemporary worship service in a family friendly setting. We hope you will join us (bring your family, friends, & neighbors) as we praise God & celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done!

Our NOVEMBER Speakers:

5th - Betsy Blacklock - COMMITMENT WEEKEND "WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT" **12th** - Rhonda Griffin
19th - Detective Sergeant Christian Cranmer will be our speaker. It is a time we will be honoring all first responders and if that is you we especially invite you to join us...along with everyone else. And following the service we will share a potluck meal together so bring your favorite dish of food to share! **6th** - Jesse Hinds (on Mission Trip to Haiti)

Sundays at St. Paul in NOVEMBER 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services

"More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and a Nursery is provided for the 10:30 a.m. service.



6: All Saints Sunday. Commitment Sunday. Daylight Saving Time ends. At the end of both services and throughout this month, you have the opportunity to turn in your Commitment Card for the 2017 General Budget. This statement of your intended financial giving to the church assures that the ministries we care about will be fully supported during 2017. You help us be wise users of the funds you entrust to us. The theme this year is: We Walk By Faith, Not By Sight. **This theme is based upon 2 Corinthians 5:7** which says: *for we walk by faith, not by sight [living our lives in a manner consistent with our confident belief in God's promises]* - AMP Version.

13: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Communion Celebrated.



13: International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Communion Celebrated. Birthday Sunday. The sad truth is that more Christians are being persecuted for being followers of Christ than at any time in history—particularly in the Middle East. Jesus warned that we would be called to take up our crosses and follow Him. Let us remember our persecuted brothers and sisters and give thanks that we live in a nation where we are free to worship our great God.



20: Christ the King Sunday. Bounty Sunday. Bible Sunday. It is a tradition that we give thanks for our blessings by bringing items for the local food pantries: Community Hope Center in Cottage Hills and Operation Blessing in Wood River. We call this Bounty Sunday. During the 10:30 a.m. Service, we give study Bibles to our 6th graders. God's Word serves as a sure guide throughout our lives.



27: 1st Sunday of Advent. United Methodist Student Day.

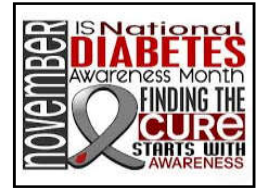
We begin our countdown to Christmas with St. Paul traditions like the lighting of the Advent candles on Sundays and the decoration of the church. Pastor Daryl begins a new sermon series: *A God With Skin In The Game*. The remarkable claim of Christmas is that our God comes to us as a human being to show us the way back to Him. Those who support the United Methodist Student Day offering help our United Methodist students with loans and scholarships. We are convinced that God intends us to serve Him with educated minds.



Dec. 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent. Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series: *A God With Skin In The Game*. While it is easy to ignore God if we think of God dwelling high in the heavens, it is hard to ignore a God standing before us, challenging us to worship Him.

**Nurse's Notes for NOVEMBER 2016 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.****This is "American Diabetes Month"**

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of disability and death in the United States. It can cause blindness, nerve damage, kidney disease, and other health problems if it's not controlled. One in 11 Americans have diabetes – that's more than 29 million people. Plus, 86 million adults in the United States are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.



In type 1 diabetes, your body treats the cells that make insulin as invaders and destroys them. This can happen over a few weeks, months, or years. When enough of the cells are gone, your pancreas makes little or no insulin and blood glucose becomes dangerously high. People with type 1 diabetes take insulin by injection with a syringe, an insulin pen, or an insulin pump.

In type 2 diabetes, your body does not use insulin properly. This is called insulin resistance. At first, the pancreas makes extra insulin to make up for it. Over time your pancreas isn't able to keep up and can't make enough insulin to keep your blood glucose levels normal. Type 2 is treated with lifestyle changes, oral medications (pills), and insulin. Some people with type 2 can control their blood glucose with healthy eating and being active. Type 2 usually gets worse over time—even if you don't need to take medications at first, you may need to later.

The good news? People who are at high risk for type 2 diabetes can lower their risk by more than half if they make healthy changes. These changes include: eating healthy, increasing physical activity, and losing weight.

Physical Activity: Diabetes usually occurs as a result of the body's insulin not working efficiently, which is called insulin resistance. When the body experiences insulin resistance, more insulin is released in order to get sugar into the cells of the body. As a result of endless amounts of insulin released, the mechanism that controls sugar stays in disarray, causing type 2 diabetes. Physical activity can help prevent this from happening altogether. The energy that is used during exercise helps to rid the sugar from the blood. Consider getting **at least 30 minutes a day** of brisk, moderate physical activity to help prevent diabetes from getting to you. Consider strength training at least two times per week and make sure to hit every major muscle group to maximize results.

Pay Attention to Diet: To prevent diabetes one should be eating portions that are not too large, with protein, plus fruit or vegetables at every meal, and not too many carbohydrates. Eating food that is low on the glycemic index is important. Be mindful that too much fruit can cause the blood glucose to rise due to the abundance of sugar in fruit. **Avoid processed carbohydrates** (cookies, crackers and white bread) and keep fast foods to a minimum. Rethink your drink and cut back on soda and other sweetened drinks. **Maintain Body Weight** - Obesity can cause many metabolic problems, as well as heart disease. While all obese individuals do not have diabetes, being obese significantly increases one's risk for having diabetes and high blood sugar.

Eat Whole Grains: Consuming grains is necessary in the diet. The grains group consists of breads, pastas, rice, and many others. The best option to prevent diabetes and still be able to eat these foods is to consume whole grains. Whole grains contain more fiber than other grains and while there is more research needed as to why whole grains regulate blood sugar, some believe that it is because whole grains release sugar into the blood at a much slower rate than the regular grain options.

Attend the Diabetes Fair at Alton Memorial Hospital in November! The date is **Saturday, November 5th, 9 a.m.-noon**. You can receive a diabetic foot check, A1C screening, and vision check. You need to call and sign up for the foot and A1C screening. If you call and register you will also receive a free boxed lunch from Firehouse Subs. Celebrity Chef Tiffany Derry will be in the cafeteria starting at 9:30 a.m. for demonstrations. **Call and register at 1-800-392-0936.**

Have a joyous Thanksgiving! Love well.
Eileen





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

"Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!"

November 1	Richard Demond	November 12	Daniel Jensen Jr.	November 27	Greg Mortland
November 1	Kyle Norris	November 13	Charles McKnelly	November 28	Dan Davis
November 2	Larry Ballard	November 14	Jim Funke	November 29	Jacob Crews
November 2	Haley Scroggins	November 14	Julie Natsch	November 30	Sam Brown
November 2	Jacey Scroggins	November 15	Cathy Dorsey	November 30	Adyson Bunt
November 3	Monna Bishop	November 15	Joe Hanfelder	November 30	Dot Elliott
November 4	Maximus Justic	November 15	Steve Natsch	November 30	Rachel McPheters
November 5	Larry Champa	November 15	Vivian Westhoff		
November 5	Raegan Martin	November 17	Lydia Chester		
November 5	Amber McCammon	November 17	Kristi Ward		
November 6	Karen Hatten	November 17	Frank Yankovich Jr.		
November 6	Brett Huff	November 18	Ashley Babcock		
November 6	Madelaine Ramirez	November 18	Heather McCammon		
November 6	Morgann Ramirez	November 19	Nathan Chester		
November 6	Lilly Shaffer	November 20	Elaine Gowan		
November 7	Corinne Crandall	November 21	Emma Martin		
November 7	Courtney Dorsey	November 21	Jason Ortegren		
November 8	Donna Badman	November 22	Steve Dunnagan		
November 9	Caroline Crandall	November 22	Ryleigh Spurgeon		
November 10	Gloria Basden	November 25	Jill Taylor-Sullivan		
November 11	Julie Brown	November 26	Emma Wood		
November 11	Bill Crain Jr.	November 27	Paul Mormino		



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



01-Nov	Mark & Debbie Bacus	19-Nov	Gregg & Lana Liedtke
01-Nov	Douglas & Susan Phelps	19-Nov	Jeremy & Tiffany Nairn
03-Nov	Mickey & Cathy Dorsey	23-Nov	Allan & Kyle Napp
03-Nov	Jim & Anna Mae Stewart	26-Nov	Jim & Anita Dawson
05-Nov	Daniel & Lindsey Jensen Jr.	29-Nov	Mike & Ricci Voorhees
07-Nov	Mike & Bobbie Jean Schlemer		
18-Nov	Ian & Tamera Martin		

Help us keep the church directory information current!

If you are going to move soon, give the church office advance notice of your new address. Also, remember to update us on your new phone number and/or email address. Thank you!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

November's Loose Change Project is Mid-West Mission

Distribution Center in Chatham, IL. This is a United Methodist warehouse/depot out of which materials and supplies are distributed throughout the United States and the world at times of natural and man-made disasters. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

Bishop's Day in the Mississippi River District



When: Sunday, November 13th
Where: Belleville - St. Matthew UMC
 1200 Moreland Drive
Time: Afternoon Laity session with
 Bishop Beard is from 1:30-2:30 p.m.
 Afternoon Clergy session with
 Bishop Beard is from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

OCTOBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 10/31/2016	\$23931.00
Designated Giving:	through 10/31/2016	\$1918.15
	Capital Improvements	358.00
	Loose Change	136.05
	Flowers	100.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	55.00
	Memorials	115.00
	Upper Room Donations	10.00
	Reimbursements	72.10
	Helping Hands	200.00
	Funeral Dinners	500.00
	PASBF-Memorial Rev. Michels	55.00
	Endowment	250.00
	2016 Steeple Postage	17.00
	Red Bird Mission	50.00
Transfer From Reserve		1693.32
World Communion Offering		237.00
Capital Campaign		1617.37
Total:		\$29396.84

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2016 STEEPLE, Fri., NOV. 18th!

Capital Campaign money received from members as of 10-31-16: **\$181,237.38**

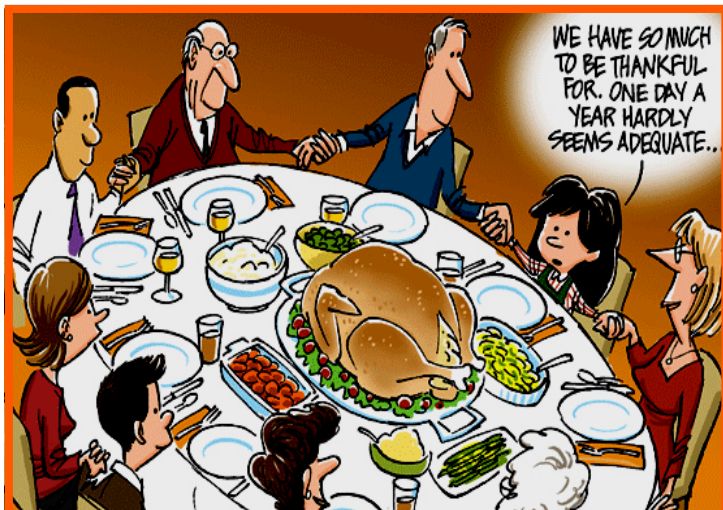
NOVEMBER Ushers (10:30 a.m.):

Nov 6: ushers needed!
 Nov 13: Tom & Ruth Voorhees
 Nov 20: Norma Shaffer
 Nov 27: ushers needed!

Call the Church Office (259-5210) if you will be a greeter or an usher!

Average Attendance for OCTOBER 2016

Early Service	45
Late Service	66
Sunday School	35
Visitors	5
4 Awakening Services	38
Worship Together Service Total	114



Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!



We Say Goodbye To Our Former Pastor...



Rev. Francis "Mike" T. Michels, 87, of Litchfield passed away Monday October 10, 2016 at 1:45 a.m. at Heritage Health Therapy & Senior Care in Litchfield, IL.

He was born at the family farm home on March 29, 1929 near Albion, IL in Edwards County, IL, a son of Frank C. & Harriett (Holt) Michels. He was the youngest of five sons: his brothers were Vernon, Virgil, James, and Allen. All preceded him in death.

Mike married the former Earline Sanders on August 29, 1952 at Phillipstown Methodist Church near Crossville, IL.

Mike attended the Judge Country School, Albion Comm. High School, McKendree College, A.B. 1953, Temple University School of Theology, S.T.B., M.Div. 1958. He also studied at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; Switzerland; and Luther's Reformation in East Germany.

Pastorates at Shiloh, IL, Boulder Circuit, New Athens-Freeburg, Bay View in Maryland, Newton/Kedron, Sparta, Greenville, Rosewood Heights, Jerseyville, Norris City-Shiloh, and Litchfield all located in the former Southern Illinois Conference, except Bay View.

He served the Southern Illinois Conference in various agencies: Board of Trustees, (Treasurer); Board Of Pensions, Commission on Minimum Salary, (Treasurer & Chairman); Building and location Committees in three districts; Committee on District Superintendency; District Youth Director; Camp Dean, Little Grassy; Conference Statistician; Conference Chairman On Pastoral Counseling and Care Committee in the planning stage, Board of Directors for United Methodist Village, Lawrenceville, IL and Alton Memorial Hospital in Alton, both in Illinois.

Believing a pastor should be involved in the community, he chose Rotary as the one service. He served in every local club office. He shared Rotary in New Athens, Newton, Sparta, Jerseyville, Carmi, and Litchfield. In retirement serving four years as Assistant Governor, being a "pioneer" the first to hold that office in the pilot year. He was awarded honors: Rotarian of the Year, Hall of Honor, and holds six Paul Harris Awards. Mike refused three times the nomination of being District Governor. He never missed a meeting since first joining, having recorded 55 years of perfect attendance.

When not volunteering, Mike enjoyed ministering with the children of the church and enjoyed woodworking, gardening, and landscaping.

Mike is survived by his wife, Earline of Litchfield, IL; daughter Linda (Robert) Noland of Maryville, IL; and 2 granddaughters, Katie Lee (Kevin) Devany and Leanne Marie Noland; great-granddaughter, Claire Marie Devany; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Stephen Link Michels; and his four brothers.

We were privileged to have Rev. Mike Michels and Earline lead us from 1981-1985. Even after he retired, Rev. Michels surprised many with a phone call on their anniversaries or birthdays. He'd always end the conversation by telling us that "he'd see us on down the road." Now, we will see Rev. Michels on down the road—the road Jesus leads us on. For Jesus promises that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Please pray for Earline and their family that they might be comforted in the midst of their sorrow. Pastor Daryl

FALL FESTIVAL Thank You!

The Women of Worship would like to thank **EVERYONE** who helped make this year's **Annual Fall Festival** a success. First of all, thank you to everyone who donated items for the kitchen & the various booths, our faithful ladies who worked on crafts during the year, those who cooked and managed the kitchen, servers, dishwashers and dish driers, dining room workers, take-out order folks, and people who priced the donations and managed the various booths. We also appreciate all those who came and enjoyed a meal or two and/or made purchases at any of the booths. Hopefully you became acquainted, or reacquainted, with someone to make the day more enjoyable. The approximate profit to date is **\$4,900**.

There are a few more bills to be paid and we still have some lovely crafts and gift items available in the Fellowship Hall. The money gathered during the entire year from our events will be distributed to our various mission and charity groups at the **Christmas Party on Thursday, December 8th** – watch for the details in the bulletin. **All women** of the church are invited to join us in distributing these funds. **AGAIN, A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED.**
Women of Worship



We Say Goodbye To Our Friend...

Ramona Lee Hunt, 68, passed away 6:28 a.m. Saturday, October 15, 2016 at her residence. Born in Herrin, IL on June 4, 1948, she was the daughter of Scott and Jean (Tweedy) Arview.

A self-employed cosmetologist, she had worked at Mary's Beauty Shop in Wood River. She enjoyed crafting and crochet, traveling, playing BINGO and Elvis.

On May 31, 1968, in Wood River, she married Wayne Hunt. He survives. Surviving also are a son Wayne Hunt, Jr. (Kelly Chesney) of Litchfield; two daughters, Carla Urban of East Alton, Carrie (Patrick) Lyerla of Wood River; five grandchildren, Jordan Bruns (Joshua Brown), Tyler Urban, Tanner Urban, Alex Chesney, Lauren Lyerla; brother, Carl Arview of West Frankfort; two sisters, Darlene Morris of Tagaytay, South Carolina, Darlene Trexler of West Frankfort; several nieces and nephews; and her canine companion, "CoCo".

Proceeding in death were her parents; two brothers, Arthur and Dwain Arview; and a sister, Dixie Hale.

Matthew 6: Put your trust in God alone

19-21 "Don't pile up treasures on earth, where moth and rust can spoil them and thieves can break in and steal. But keep your treasure in Heaven where there is neither moth nor rust to spoil it and nobody can break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, you may be certain that your heart will be there too!" 25-30 "That is why I say to you, don't worry about living—wondering what you are going to eat or drink, or what you are going to wear. Surely life is more important than food, and the body more important than the clothes you wear. Look at the birds in the sky. They never sow nor reap nor store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you much more valuable to him than they are? Can any of you, however much he worries, make himself an inch taller? And why do you worry about clothes? Consider how the wild flowers grow. They neither work nor weave, but I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was never arrayed like one of these! Now if God so clothes the flowers of the field, which are alive today and burnt in the stove tomorrow, is he not much more likely to clothe you, you 'little-faiths'? 31-33 "So don't worry and don't keep saying, 'What shall we eat, what shall we drink or what shall we wear?! That is what pagans are always looking for; your Heavenly Father knows that you need them all. Set your heart on the kingdom and his goodness, and all these things will come to you as a matter of course. 34 "Don't worry at all then about tomorrow. Tomorrow can take care of itself! One day's trouble is enough for one day."

As I reflect upon a person's life, I try to find a Bible passage that captures the uniqueness of that life. I settled upon this passage because Ramona Hunt has been ill for a while; yet she did not use her illness as an excuse from living her life. She did not fritter away her life with worry.

Whenever she was able, she joined her Bingo Friends at the KC Hall in Granite City, showed up at her grandchildren's special events like Tyler's graduation from Army Reserve Boot Camp, or simply spending time with her family. She took trips with Wayne to the Smoky Mountains and Branson.

Mona showed up to support us when she wasn't 100% because she loved us and she was determined that her illness would not limit her any more than necessary. The Bible observes in many places that we are fragile—like the wild flowers—here today and gone tomorrow. The line between life and death is exceedingly thin. That is why we need to focus our lives upon what is truly important.

Where was Ramona's heart? Our answer to that question will reveal what she treasured above all else. Her heart was with you gathered here today: her family, her friends, and neighbors. Her heart was given to Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Ramona invested in those riches that can never be taken away from her because she put her trust in God.

Now she has received the *crown of righteousness* that Jesus places upon the head of all who have finished their race of faith upon this earth. The pain and suffering of these past few months and her struggles throughout the years...all that is past. Paul promises that the sufferings we experience upon this earth are small potatoes when compared to the glories of heaven.

None of this truth erases our desire to have Ramona with us for more days of making memories, for more conversations, and simply because we already miss her so very much. There is a piece of us that feels this way even though we know extending her life upon this earth would extend her suffering. We feel like this because we want our loved ones to be present at the great occasions of our life that lay in the future.

That is why Hebrews 12:1 is so important to those who have lost loved ones like Ramona. It pictures all the company of heaven gathered in an amphitheater watching us as we continue to run this race of faith. They are cheering us on, encouraging us to **set our heart on the kingdom and God's goodness, so that all those riches Mona inherited will be ours in due time!** In mysterious ways, we do not fully understand our loved ones are present during the important events of our lives.

Continued on Page 11



Christmas Dinner & Program

It is a St. Paul tradition for the church to gather for a Christmas Dinner. During November you will have an opportunity to make reservations for this year's **Christmas Dinner** (prepared by Chef Bob) on **Saturday, December 3rd at 6 p.m.** There is no set

charge for the dinner. Instead, **we all make a donation for the meal.** Reservation forms will be in the Sunday bulletins 4 times in the month of November. Please fill **one** out for your family. If you cannot be here to do this, **please call the church office (259-5210)** during the week or email info@stpaulwired.org to leave your information with the church secretary.

Dinner will be followed by "The Christmas Cupcake," a musical featuring our children & youth! Four contestants are chosen by the *Yum Yum Foodie Network* to bake their cutest Christmas cupcakes. Conflicts arise when the contestants push the telling of the real story of Christmas to the back burner. Everyone gets on board and tells the sweetest story ever told through the living nativity. Cute music, audience participation, & surprises will be in store for those who join us on Dec. 3! So plan now to attend it all! It is a wonderful evening filled with the joy of Christmas fellowship around the table as well as enjoying our children & youth sharing the news of the baby Jesus!



The Women of Worship will be sponsoring a **Christmas Boutique** on **Friday, Nov. 11 & Saturday, Nov. 12** from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Also after services on Sun. Nov. 13th.

Crafts and gifts will be displayed upstairs in the parlor and hallway. And a discounted selection of regular, seasonal, and gift items will be on display for sale in Joyce Tappy's Sunday School room. **Get started on your "last minute" shopping ahead of time this year.**



PECANS:

This year's pecans will be here soon

after the beginning of NOVEMBER.

The costs are:

\$11.00 for the 1lb. bag of plain or

\$8.00 for a bag of the chocolate covered pecans.

The pecans being sold are a Fundraiser for the Women of Worship to add to the mission money raised so far this year!





We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Virginia Rae Scott, 89, passed away at 4:45 a.m., Friday, September 2, 2016 at Rosewood Care Center of Alton. Born in Wood River July 31, 1927, she was the daughter of Lester & Nola (Carlson) Scott.

She had worked as a teller, bookkeeper, and supervisor for what was then 1st National Bank of Wood River, prior to retiring.

She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Her parents; sister, Florence Hendricks, and her, husband, Wilbur preceded her in death.

~ I Peter 4 ~ ⁷ **The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.** ⁸ **Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.** ⁹ **Be hospitable to one another without complaining.** ¹⁰ **Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.** ¹¹ **Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. NRSV**

Convinced that the end of the world is near, the writer of I Peter provides a guide for how we should act towards other Christians and those in the world. I chose this passage because verse 9 captured Virginia's conduct towards me and others within the church: **Be hospitable to one another without complaining.**

When we learned early in 2000 that in July we would be moving to Rosewood Heights, we soon received cards of welcome from Florence Hendricks and Virginia Scott. Neither of them served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, but both were glad we had been appointed to St. Paul. They were especially thrilled that we had a young daughter so there would be a child in the parsonage.

The cards didn't cease after we arrived at St. Paul. We would get birthday and anniversary cards from Florence and Virginia, but sometimes we would get cards of encouragement and reminders that they were praying for our ministry.

I know that they sent cards to others in the congregation. **Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.** Both Virginia and Florence served with the gift of hospitality.

I could easily imagine how Virginia used this gift of hospitality in her work at the Wood River Bank; cheerfully greeting her coworkers and clients. The gift of hospitality is easily overlooked, but it like all the gifts God imparts to us may be used to glorify our God.

More and more, I hear people remark how uncivil our society has become. Rudeness and unkindness has become commonplace. We have become a society divided into hostile camps. We have forgotten the truth that **love covers a multitude of sins.** We could use more of the hospitality that came so naturally to Virginia.

Virginia wasn't perfect. Like all of us she was a sinner in need of a Savior. She had a Savior in Jesus Christ. Jesus had cleansed her sins and made her whole. Jesus had given her the strength to serve Him and Him only.

It has been hard for all of us to watch Virginia to lose interest in following her beloved Cardinals and other sports teams. Or if no sports were on TV, usually there was Gunsmoke or some other western. She no longer talked about her beloved dogs.

When she slipped away from this earth, Virginia fell into the loving arms of her Savior; Jesus her faithful companion and friend. While I am a little sad for myself, I am happy for Virginia. For she had committed her life to Jesus a long time ago. Whether she was on this earth or in heaven, she is the Lord's. She has always been the Lord's.

The promise Jesus made to Virginia has been fulfilled. She has received the crown of righteousness that awaits all of us when we enter heaven. She has joined the saints singing the songs of victory around the throne. For as Peter notes, to God **belongs the glory and the power forever and ever.** Please keep Virginia's family in your prayers. Pastor Daryl

Ramona Hunt Continued from Page 9

Hebrews advises: **Since we are surrounded by so many examples of faith, we must get rid of everything that slows us down, especially sin that distracts us. We must run the race that lies ahead of us and never give up.** ² **We must focus on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith.** Like Mona, we need to stop worrying and instead live fully in each moment, always trusting in God.

As difficult as it is, let us yield Ramona to God's care, the One who created her and loves her. For Ramona has not gone to a stranger's house, but rather to live in God's house.

Finally, let us be sure that our heart is where Ramona's was: valuing our family and friends, loving our neighbor, and trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. For our heart reveals where our treasure is.

If we do this, then we will have learned well the lessons that Ramona taught us and one day we will see her again. We will join her in our Father's House and there we will dwell together forever and ever.

Please keep Wayne & Ramona's whole family in your prayers. Pastor Daryl



Bounty Sunday, November 20th

is a long-standing tradition within our church. It is a time when we stop and reflect how God has richly blessed us. We do this during the 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. worship services. The best response to God's blessings is to give thanks & praise Him. Bounty Sunday is filled with music, prayers, and praises. We bring an offering of food and other necessary items for our food pantries: Community Hope Center and Operation Blessing. Bags with information have been passed out. Suggested items are listed on the bags. If you will not be in worship on the 20th, please do not let that stop you from bringing in a sack of food. You may place it in the food collection area anytime before Nov. 20th. We invite you to participate in our Bounty Sunday. For us, it captures the true meaning of Thanksgiving!



Everyone is welcomed to come help the Worship Ministry Team decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 26th from 9 a.m. - Noon!



It will soon be time to order your poinsettias. The cost may be up to \$8.00 per poinsettia. The order deadline will be Sunday, December 11th. The poinsettias may be taken home following the services on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. Please indicate when you order to whom it is "in memory" or "in honor" of and it is **important** to include your payment when you order. Questions? Call 259-5210.



Church outreach for Christmas

The last six years our church has supplied unwrapped gifts for the Roxana Jr. & Sr. High School student councils' annual party for at-risk children. Approximately 150 children are identified by school nurses and teachers from all the area schools. These are children from very low income families. They are invited to a Christmas party at the Roxana School.



The date for the party this year is Saturday, December 10, 10:30 a.m.-Noon. The children get a picture with Santa, a meal, and gifts. Our gifts supplement those purchased through funds raised at the school. Details follow:

- What:** Unwrapped toys for children aged infant to 14 years, wrapping paper, and tape
- Due Date:** Collected now through Sun., Dec. 4th
- Where:** Place in big Christmas box in the entryway

The gifts will be delivered and then wrapped by students. **Adult volunteers are needed.** If anyone would like to help out for the party on December 10th, call Jane Herndon for details.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing will be on Friday, December 9th 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Walmart in Wood River (Grocery Doors)

We ring at one entrance with teams of two people each for one hour at a time... WATCH FOR THE sign up SHEET!





ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PRESERVING THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AS A FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND MISSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Mission Possible

“THROUGH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE” MATTHEW 19:26

UNDERSTANDING & GIVING TO MISSION POSSIBLE

The following information is provided to clarify any misconceptions about our Mission Possible campaign and to further clarify how one might give to the cause. **Mission Possible** is a campaign to provide funding above and beyond our normal operational costs to address some much needed maintenance and renovation work at St. Paul. The primary target of the campaign is the replacement of our aging heating and air conditioning system (HVAC) as well as other much needed items for our church building and senior parsonage. We do this in large part as we consider the future of the ministry of St. Paul UMC and the over 50 diverse ministries that radiate from our church home, and as we consider the role our church building will play in future ministry.

The **October 2015 Mission Possible Commitment Weekend** was the kickoff to our fund raising campaign. So if you were absent or did not give to the campaign during that time, but now feel led to participate with your financial gifts, there is still plenty of time to participate. **In order that we can know where we stand with pledges, we ask that you fill out a commitment card (which is available in the church office) if you plan to give to the Mission Possible Campaign.**

Providing your gift(s):

- If you are interested in a one-time gift, send the donation to the church or place it in the Sunday offering, **but please be sure to note Mission Possible (or CFC for Capital Fund Campaign) on your check memo line and offering envelope.**
- You can also give online through our website.
- You can give using your credit card when you provide that information to the church office.
- You can give by cash or check.
- You can also provide financial contributions via securities, real estate, personal properties, or an estate gift by contacting the church office or Bob Blacklock.

Beginning **January 2016**, you will place the designated amount for “Mission Possible” gifts on the **Capital Campaign** line on your offering envelopes. Donations toward the expenses of our Church Operations (i.e. the General Budget) would go on the **Undesignated** line as always. What was Capital Improvements, funds meant for unexpected major expenses, is now labeled **Building & Grounds Improvements** on the 2016 envelopes.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office for clarification.

► **IMPORTANT** ◀

Please, look for the MISSION POSSIBLE in red on the outside of any envelopes from St. Paul UMC for timely information regarding our Capital Fund Campaign!



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On November 15 we will be rekeying the entry doors in the church: small red door SW corner, front & back entry doors, fellowship hall ramp entry, and double red doors on west side of the church. This will **not** impact any locks on the inside of the church...thus, if you have a church entry key you will need to **turn it in to the office** and **pick up an envelope** with the new key and instructions on arming/disarming the church security system **ON or AFTER November 15 (NOT BEFORE the 15th)**.

When exiting the back door of the church please use the left hand door so that the security system will operate correctly by allowing the door to secure itself in the door frame.

Also, please remember to close doors on the inside of the church when rooms or areas are not being used. This will allow us to maximize our new heating/cooling systems efficiency. If you have a question about the thermostats please ask Jim Herndon or Pastor Fansler. Please refrain from just "pushing buttons" hoping to get it to do what you want.

Another bit of work crossed off, the "squirrel" windows were replaced on October 27th. We are making progress!!

Any questions please let Jim Herndon, Trustee Chairperson, know your concerns or questions. Thank you again for all your patience and support!!

St. Paul Trustees

Plein Air Painting Exhibition—Includes Art By JOY MILLER!

Throughout the month of September, several artists completed plein air paintings outside at the Watershed Nature Center. Artists then submitted their works to be juried into an exhibit at the Edwardsville Arts Center. The top 13 artworks will be featured in a special 2017 calendar that will be created and sold at the center. Come enjoy this exhibition of many artist's renderings of one of Edwardsville's most beloved places!

EXHIBITION DATES: October 21—November 18

LOCATION: Edwardsville Arts Center

6155 Center Grove Road
Edwardsville, IL

D. WAGNER